



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,473	11/10/2003	Francis Lamy	97634.00178	5729
72535 7590 03/17/2009 MCCARTER & ENGLISH, LLP STAMFORD FINANCIAL CENTRE , SUITE 304A 695 EAST MAIN STREET STAMFORD, CT 06901-2138				
EXAMINER				
CHENG, PETER L				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2625				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/17/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/705,473

Applicant(s)

LAMY ET AL.

Examiner

PETER L. CHENG

Art Unit

2625

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-11, 13-32, 34, 35 and 37-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-11, 13-32, 34, 35 and 37-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/2008.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Per Applicants' remarks filed 12/17/2008, page 11, lines 5 – 14, it is the Examiner's understanding that "Application 10/705,473 and Patent 7,280,118 B2 were, at the time the invention of Application 10/705,473 was made, owned by **Gretag MacBeth AG**".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

In addition, a § 101 process must (1) be tied to another statutory class (a particular machine or apparatus) or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or materials) to a different state or thing. If neither of these requirements is met by the claim, the method is not a patent eligible process under § 101 and should be rejected as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

An example of a method claim that would not qualify as a statutory process would be a claim that recited purely mental steps. Thus, to qualify as a § 101 statutory process, the claim should positively recite the other statutory class (the thing or product) to which it is tied, for example by identifying the apparatus that accomplishes the method steps, or positively recite the subject matter that is being transformed, for example by identifying the material that is being changed to a different state.

"Identifying the apparatus" requires that the process claim explicitly recite the particular machine or apparatus, or recite a step that inherently involves the use of a particular machine or apparatus.

The definition of an "inherent tie" is as follows:

The step requires a particular machine or apparatus such that the step cannot be performed mentally or manually in a manner that reasonably accomplishes the intended purpose of the recited invention, as claimed, without the use of a structure.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention (i.e., *method for generating a digital color standard system for the generation or reproduction of standardized colors*) is not tied to another statutory class.

Dependent **claims 4 – 11, 13 – 17, 34, and 37 – 40** are similarly rejected.

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter (i.e., "computer readable medium" which is interpreted as being the "data carrier", which in turn, is specified as "*a CD-ROM, a DVD-carrier, a set of digital data signals, a computer server or the like*"; **originally-filed specification page 6, lines 1 - 2**). *Digital data signals* are non-statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1, 4 – 11, and 13 – 32, 34, 35 and 37 - 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over **CHAN [US Patent 7,046,396 B2]** in view of **SENN et al. [EP1 248 087 A1 which is the priority document for US Patent 7,280,118 B2]**.

As for claim 1, CHAN teaches a method for generating a digital color standard system for the generation or reproduction of standardized colors

[CHAN provides a system “for identifying a desired ink color and a formulation for a matching ink color”; **col. 1, lines 56 - 58**],

comprising:

a) providing a color gamut including a saturation coordinate;

b) dividing the color gamut into a plurality of discrete spectral color values

[*These limitations correspond* to a database of discrete spectral color values.

CHAN teaches that a “spectrophotometer 14, color monitor 16, and viewing booth 18 are used ... to create a color data base associated with a set of ink

base colors"; **col. 3, lines 43 – 46**, and cites, "The database is prepared by measuring", with the spectrophotometer, "the color information for print samples prepared from the ink color base set and/or combinations thereof at difference concentrations or strengths. The database contains a sufficient number of color information points so that the computer can extrapolate, if necessary, the color information that would result from the different combinations of the ink base color set"; **col. 5, lines 38 – 45**.

In addition, CHAN teaches that "a variety of methods for inputting the desired color is envisioned. In one embodiment, the desired color may be input as appropriate coordinates of a color space. The color coordinates can be obtained spectrophotometrically ... and expressed in coordinates such as the color coordinates such as X, Y, Z or L^* , a^* , b^* , or in cylindrical coordinates r , Θ , l or L^* , C^* , H^{**} "; **col. 4, lines 46 – 53**.

The CIE $L^*C^*H^*$ system includes a saturation coordinate (C^*)],

wherein at least one of the discrete spectral color values includes a plurality of different colors at least including a first color with a first saturation,

wherein at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the first color with a second saturation different than the first saturation,

and wherein over at least a part of the color gamut, the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut;

c) digitizing the discrete spectral color values

[Computer databases store information as digitized, discrete values. As noted previously, CHAN teaches the use of a spectrophotometer to measure "print samples prepared from the ink color base set" which are then stored in a database];

and d) representing at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals.

However, CHAN does not specifically teach

wherein at least one of the discrete spectral color values includes a plurality of different colors at least including a first color with a first saturation,

wherein at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the first color with a second saturation different than the first saturation,

and wherein over at least a part of the color gamut, the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut;

and d) representing at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals.

SENN et al. teach a "system and method for the production of a color palette"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 3, lines 3 – 4 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 1, paragraph 1, lines 1 - 3.** An initial step in the production of a color palette divides a color space. "The CIE-LAB-color space is initially divided into a grid of color points (Lab coordinates)"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 3, lines 41 – 42 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 3, paragraph 10, lines 16 - 20.** In this way, "a table of color coordinates with their corresponding spectral curves is generated, thus becoming a color palette"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 5, lines 39 – 41 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 5, paragraph 17, lines 18 - 20.** SENN et al. further teach that the division of the color space may also be performed via *polar coordinates*. "To improve the visual equidistance, regular grids (polar coordinates L, C, h) can also be applied (L = brightness, lightness; C = saturation, chroma; and h = color tone, hue)"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 3, lines 52 – 54 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 3,**

paragraph 11, lines 5 - 8. "The formulation, instead of being based on squares or quadrilaterals, is conducted on the basis of circles of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma). In the simplest scenario, the radii are selected as a multiple of a base radius (r , $2r$, $3r$, ...); **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 5, lines 45 – 49 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 5, paragraph 18, lines 4 - 7.**

That is, SENN et al. teach *dividing the color gamut into a plurality of discrete spectral color values*

wherein at least one of the discrete spectral color values includes a plurality of different colors at least including a first color with a first saturation

[For example, the "*at least one of the discrete spectral color values*" may correspond to a plurality of different colors with a chroma radius of " $2r$ " including a "*first color*" (or "first hue")],

wherein at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the first color with a second saturation different than the first saturation

[For example, the "*at least another of the discrete spectral color values*" may correspond to the same plurality of different colors (or hues) with a chroma radius of " $3r$ "],

and wherein over at least a part of the color gamut, the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut

[As noted, an objective of selecting grid points is to "improve the visual equidistance" and the discrete color values may be separated by a "multiple of a base radius"];

and d) representing at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals

[As noted, the objective is to generate "a table of color coordinates with their corresponding spectral curves" which becomes a color palette].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of SENN et al. with those of CHAN so that the colors selected for the color database (i.e., from a "color palette") would have a property of being visually perceived as being spatially equidistant. On the contrary, if the selected colors did not have this property, the size of the color database would be unnecessarily larger than needed due to having "duplicate colors" which appeared the same.

Regarding claim 4, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein

the discrete spectral color values or the digitized discrete spectral color values are adapted to a color recording capability of a particular color recording process or a particular color recording device

[CHAN teaches that the "second computer" may also consider "color recording characteristics" for the type of "recording substrate", "color reproduction characteristics" for the type of "color material", and the "color appearance characteristics" for the "color reproducing process". That is, the color data that is stored on the "second computer" and is transmitted to the "first computer" is data which takes into account these various characteristics.

CHAN cites, "It is especially preferred to include additional information relating to the print substrate, printing equipment, and other information that may affect the color match on the substrate or performance of the ink. Examples of such information include, without limitation, type of substrate, color of substrate, print process (e.g., offset, gravure, sheetfed, flexographic, etc.), type of printing equipment, press speed, and/or type of ink or ink properties desired"; **col. 4, lines 30 – 37.**

Therefore, CHAN teaches adapting the color values to a color recording capability of a particular color recording process or a particular color recording device (i.e., a type of "print process", or "printing equipment")].

Regarding claim 5, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 4, wherein

the particular color recording device is one selected from the group consisting of an ink jet printer and a rotary printing press

[As noted for claim 4, CHAN cites various examples of print processes which include offset, gravure, sheet-fed, and flexographic. Both offset and flexographic are types of "rotary printing"].

Regarding claim 6, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein

at least one of the discrete spectral color values and the digitized discrete spectral color values is adapted to a particular recording substrate

[As noted for claim 4, CHAN teaches that the color values are adapted to a particular recording (or "print") substrate.

CHAN cites, "It is especially preferred to include additional information relating to the print substrate, printing equipment, and other information that may affect the color match on the substrate or performance of the ink. Examples of such information include, without limitation, type of substrate, color of substrate, print process (e.g., offset, gravure, sheetfed, flexographic, etc.), type of printing equipment, press speed, and/or type of ink or ink properties desired"; **col. 4, lines 30 – 37].**

Regarding claim 7, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein

at least one of the discrete spectral color values and the digitized discrete spectral color values is adapted to a particular recording material

[As noted for claim 4, CHAN teaches that the color values are adapted to a particular recording material (i.e., ink or colorant).

CHAN cites, "It is especially preferred to include additional information relating to the print substrate, printing equipment, and other information that may affect the color match on the substrate or performance of the ink. Examples of such information include, without limitation, type of substrate, color of substrate, print process (e.g., offset, gravure, sheetfed, flexographic, etc.), type of printing equipment, press speed, and/or type of ink or ink properties desired"; **col. 4, lines 30 – 37**].

Regarding claim 8, CHAN further teaches a method according to claim 7, wherein

said particular recording material is one selected from the group consisting of an ink and a toner

[As noted for claim 7, CHAN teaches that the recording material may be a type of ink].

Regarding claim 9, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein

particular colors of particular image areas are scanned by means of a spectral measurement device and the particular colors or the spectral color data of the particular colors are assigned to the digitized discrete spectral color values for further processing

[CHAN teaches that a "spectrophotometer 14, color monitor 16, and viewing booth 18 are used ... to create a color data base associated with a set of ink base colors"; **col. 3, lines 43 – 46**, and cites, "The database is prepared by measuring", with the spectrophotometer, "the color information for print samples prepared from the ink color base set and/or combinations thereof at difference concentrations or strengths. The database contains a sufficient number of color information points so that the computer can extrapolate, if necessary, the color information that would result from the different combinations of the ink base color set"; **col. 5, lines 38 - 45**].

Regarding claim 10, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein

at least one of the discrete spectral color values and the digitized discrete spectral color values is set in a relation to pre-defined light conditions

[CHAN teaches that the color values contained in the database may also take into account various lighting conditions. CHAN cites, "Because print color can appear different when viewed under different light sources, it is preferred to include in the database color information for the colors as they would appear

under different light sources, for example in sunlight, in D65 daylight, cool white fluorescent light, and incandescent light"; **col. 6, lines 23 - 28**].

Regarding claim 11, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein

the appearance of at least one of a discrete spectral color value and a digitized discrete spectral color value on a particular recording substrate or recording device is set into a relationship to pre-defined light conditions

[As noted for claim 4, CHAN teaches adapting the color values to a color recording capability of a particular color recording process or a particular color recording device (i.e., a type of "print process", or "printing equipment").

As noted for claim 6, CHAN teaches that the color values are adapted to a particular recording substrate.

As noted for claim 10, CHAN teaches that the color values contained in the database may also take into account various lighting conditions.

Therefore, CHAN teaches that the color values contained in the database are related by a recording process (or device), recording substrate, and lighting conditions].

Regarding claim 13, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein

a recording substrate is spectrally measured to provide a recording substrate-specific spectral color data set, and at least one of the discrete spectral color values and the digitized discrete spectral color values is adjusted according to said recording substrate-specific spectral color data set

[As noted previously, CHAN teaches "that color can vary for an ink depending upon the substrate being printed"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 54**. CHAN further teaches that the "substrate color" may also be input as "spectral data"; **col. 7, lines 65 – 66**. CHAN's system includes a spectrophotometer which may be used to obtain the spectral data of the recording substrate.

The "adjustment" to the color values corresponds to the "calculation of the formulation" which "preferably takes into account the color shift, if any, expected for the substrate being printed"; **col. 7, lines 60 - 62**].

Regarding claim 14, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein

at least one color of a specimen is spectrally measured and spectral color data is assigned to at least one of a matching discrete spectral color value and a matching digitized discrete spectral color value

[CHAN teaches that “a variety of methods for inputting the desired color” (of a specimen) “is envisioned”; **col. 4, lines 46 – 47**. However, “more accurate color matching can be obtained using a spectrophotometer”; **col. 4, lines 57 – 58**.

Furthermore, CHAN teaches that a “color match” may be determined “by the comparison of the reflectance values in the visible spectrum for the desired color and the color identified by the color matching program. A least squares calculation can be done to determine the ink formulation that will have the spectral curve with the closest fit to the spectral curve of the desired color standard, where the spectral curve for the ink formulation may be extrapolated from information of measured spectral curves in the data”; **col. 6, lines 33 – 41**].

Regarding claim 15, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein **the digitized discrete spectral color values are collected to provide a digital color book of at least one chromaticity**

[CHAN teaches that the desired input color may be selected from a “library of colors shown on the customer’s computer monitor”; **col. 4, lines 59 – 61**.

Furthermore, “the colors may be shown as an array of color chips or boxes, as a continuum of colors such as a color space, or in any other suitable way”; **col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 1**. The “color library”, when displayed as an array of color

chips (as is typical in a color "swatch book"), corresponds to the "digital color book"].

Regarding claim 16, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, *further comprising processing the digitized discrete spectral color values*, wherein

said processing includes at least one of the following processing steps:

assigning the digitized discrete spectral color values to color values of images,

transmitting at least one digitized discrete spectral color value between remote terminals,

and printing out at least one digitized discrete spectral color value

[As noted for claim 1, "processing" of the digitized color values may include the transmission of such values from the "second computer" to the "first computer", including the display of such values on a monitor.

"The second computer **10** (illustrated as the server) selects an ink formulation and transmits the color data associated with the selected formulation to the first computer **4**"; **col. 3, lines 31 – 33.**

Furthermore, a software package "converts the spectral data of a color that is input from the computer **4** or the database software **22** to the digital information

that will produce the same color on the screens of monitor 6 and 16"; **col. 3, lines 52 - 55**].

Regarding claim 17, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising

using a data carrier to carry at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values

[“The second computer 10 (illustrated as the server) selects an ink formulation and transmits the color data associated with the selected formulation to the first computer 4”; **col. 3, lines 31 – 33**].

The “data carrier” corresponds to the “second computer” (or server).].

As for claim 18, CHAN teaches a computer system for generating a digital color standard system for the generation or reproduction of standardized colors

[CHAN provides a system “for identifying a desired ink color and a formulation for a matching ink color”; **col. 1, lines 56 - 58**],

comprising a processor

[Fig. 1 “server” (or “second computer”) 10]

that is programmed to

**a) divide a color gamut having a saturation coordinate
into a plurality of discrete spectral color values**

[These limitations correspond to a database of discrete spectral color values.

CHAN teaches that a "spectrophotometer 14, color monitor 16, and viewing booth 18 are used ... to create a color data base associated with a set of ink base colors"; **col. 3, lines 43 – 46**, and cites, "The database is prepared by measuring", with the spectrophotometer, "the color information for print samples prepared from the ink color base set and/or combinations thereof at difference concentrations or strengths. The database contains a sufficient number of color information points so that the computer can extrapolate, if necessary, the color information that would result from the different combinations of the ink base color set"; **col. 5, lines 38 – 45**.

In addition, CHAN teaches that "a variety of methods for inputting the desired color is envisioned. In one embodiment, the desired color may be input as appropriate coordinates of a color space. The color coordinates can be obtained spectrophotometrically ... and expressed in coordinates such as the color coordinates such as X, Y, Z or L*, a*, b*, or in cylindrical coordinates r, θ , l or L*, C*, H*"; **col. 4, lines 46 – 53**.

The CIE L*C*H* system includes a saturation coordinate (C*_s)],

wherein at least one of the discrete spectral color values includes a plurality of different colors at least including a first color with a first saturation,

wherein at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the first color with a second saturation different than the first saturation,

and wherein over at least a part of the color gamut, the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut,

b) digitize the discrete spectral color values

[Computer databases store information as digitized, discrete values. As noted previously, CHAN teaches the use of a spectrophotometer to measure "print samples prepared from the ink color base set" which are then stored in a database],

wherein at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values is representable by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals;

and c) process the digitized discrete spectral color values.

["Processing" of the digitized color values may include the transmission of such values from the "second computer" to the "first computer", including the display of such values on a monitor.

"The second computer 10 (illustrated as the server) selects an ink formulation and transmits the color data associated with the selected formulation to the first computer 4"; **col. 3, lines 31 – 33.**

Furthermore, a software package "converts the spectral data of a color that is input from the computer 4 or the database software 22 to the digital information that will produce the same color on the screens of monitor 6 and 16"; **col. 3, lines 52 - 55]**

However, CHAN *does not specifically teach*

wherein at least one of the discrete spectral color values includes a plurality of different colors at least including a first color with a first saturation,

wherein at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the first color with a second saturation different than the first saturation,

and wherein over at least a part of the color gamut, the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut,

wherein at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values is representable by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals;

SENN et al. teach a "system and method for the production of a color palette"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 3, lines 3 – 4 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 1, paragraph 1, lines 1 - 3.** An initial step in the production of a color palette divides a color space. "The CIE-LAB-color space is initially divided into a grid of color points (Lab coordinates)"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 3, lines 41 – 42 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 3, paragraph 10, lines 16 - 20.** In this way, "a table of color coordinates with their corresponding spectral curves is generated, thus becoming a color palette"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 5, lines 39 – 41 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 5, paragraph 17, lines 18 - 20.** SENN et al. further teach that the division of the color space may also be performed via *polar*

coordinates. "To improve the visual equidistance, regular grids (polar coordinates L, C, h) can also be applied (L = brightness, lightness; C = saturation, chroma; and h = color tone, hue); **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 3, lines 52 – 54 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 3, paragraph 11, lines 5 - 8**. "The formulation, instead of being based on squares or quadrilaterals, is conducted on the basis of circles of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma). In the simplest scenario, the radii are selected as a multiple of a base radius (r, 2r, 3r, ...); **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 5, lines 45 – 49 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 5, paragraph 18, lines 4 - 7**.

That is, SENN et al. teach *dividing the color gamut into a plurality of discrete spectral color values*

wherein at least one of the discrete spectral color values includes a plurality of different colors at least including a first color with a first saturation

[For example, the "*at least one of the discrete spectral color values*" may correspond to a plurality of different colors with a chroma radius of "2r" including a "*first color*" (or "first hue")],

wherein at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the first color with a second saturation different than the first saturation

[For example, the “*at least another of the discrete spectral color values*” may correspond to the same plurality of different colors (or hues) with a chroma radius of “ $3r$ ”],

and wherein over at least a part of the color gamut, the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut

[As noted, an objective of selecting grid points is to “improve the visual equidistance” and the discrete color values may be separated by a “multiple of a base radius”];

wherein at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values is representable by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals;

[As noted, the objective is to generate “a table of color coordinates with their corresponding spectral curves” which becomes a color palette].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of SENN et al. with those of CHAN so that the colors selected for the color database (i.e., from a “color palette”) would have a property of being visually perceived as being spatially equidistant. On the contrary, if the

selected colors did not have this property, the size of the color database would be unnecessarily larger than needed due to having "duplicate colors" which appeared the same.

Regarding claim 19, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

**the digitized discrete spectral color values are stored in memory
associated with the processor and are accessible through a data network**

[The digitized color values are stored in a computer database. Regarding Fig. 1, "The server 10 uses three software packages, 12, 20 and 22"; **col. 3, lines 40 – 41. "Software package C 22 includes a database of color information"; col. 3, lines 56 – 57.**

Both software package C and its database of color values are associated with the processor (i.e., "second computer" or server **10**).

First and second computers communicate over a network. CHAN cites, as an example, the "Internet"; **col. 3, line 2].**

Regarding claim 20, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

the digitized discrete spectral color values are stored in memory associated with the processor in the form of at least one digital color swatch

[CHAN teaches that the desired input color may be selected from a "library of colors shown on the customer's computer monitor"; **col. 4, lines 59 – 61.**

Furthermore, "the colors may be shown as an array of color chips or boxes, as a continuum of colors such as a color space, or in any other suitable way"; **col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 1.** The "color library", when displayed as an array of color chips (as is typical in a color "swatch book"), corresponds to a book of "digital color swatches"].

Regarding claim 21, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

color recording characteristics data of a plurality of recording substrates are stored in the a memory associated with said processor and are accessible through a data network

[As noted for claim 4, CHAN teaches that the characteristics of recording substrates are preferably included (along with the desired input color); **col. 4, lines 30 – 39.** The processor (i.e., the "second computer" or server 10 shown in **Fig. 1**) considers these additional characteristics (along with the desired input color) when performing a color match. The resulting color match, which takes

into account the characteristics of the recording substrate, is made accessible through a network to the "first computer" (**Fig. 1** reference number **4**).

Regarding claim 22, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

the processor can be accessed in order to combine a standard digital color swatch book or digital standard color data with color recording substrate characteristics, to generate color reproduction simulation data

[As noted previously, CHAN teaches "that color can vary for an ink depending upon the substrate being printed"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 54**. CHAN further teaches that the "substrate color" may also be input as "spectral data"; **col. 7, lines 65 – 66**. CHAN's system includes a spectrophotometer which may be used to obtain the spectral data of the recording substrate.

The "combination" of the color values with the characteristics of the recording substrate corresponds to the "calculation of the formulation" which "preferably takes into account the color shift, if any, expected for the substrate being printed"; **col. 7, lines 60 - 62**].

Regarding claim 23, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

color reproduction characteristics data for a plurality of color materials are stored in memory associated with the processor to be accessed through a data network in order to retrieve data

[As noted for claim 4, CHAN teaches that the color values are adapted to a particular recording material (i.e., ink or colorant).

CHAN cites, "It is especially preferred to include additional information relating to the print substrate, printing equipment, and other information that may affect the color match on the substrate or performance of the ink. Examples of such information include, without limitation, type of substrate, color of substrate, print process (e.g., offset, gravure, sheetfed, flexographic, etc.), type of printing equipment, press speed, and/or type of ink or ink properties desired"; **col. 4, lines 30 – 37.**

The color reproduction characteristics data for the various types of ink (i.e., "color materials") is considered by the processor (i.e., "second computer") when a color match is performed and would typically be stored in a memory accessible by the processor].

Regarding claim 24, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 23, wherein

said plurality of color materials are selected from the group consisting of an ink and a toner

[As noted for claim 7, CHAN teaches that the recording material may be a type of ink].

Regarding claim 25, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 18, wherein at least two of the following kinds of data can be accessed or combined by the processor in order to achieve particular color reproduction simulation data:

digital standard color swatch book data or digital standard color data;
color recording characteristics data for recording substrates;
color reproduction characteristics data for color materials;
and color appearance characteristics data for color reproducing processes;

~~in order to achieve particular color reproduction simulation data~~

[In addition to the "database of color information for the ink base color set" (col. 3, lines 56 - 57), CHAN teaches that the "second computer" may also consider "color recording characteristics" for the type of "recording substrate", "color reproduction characteristics" for the type of "color material", and the "color appearance characteristics" for the "color reproducing process".

CHAN cites, "It is especially preferred to include additional information relating to the print substrate, printing equipment, and other information that may affect the color match on the substrate or performance of the ink. Examples of such information include, without limitation, type of substrate, color of substrate, print process (e.g., offset, gravure, sheetfed, flexographic, etc.), type of printing equipment, press speed, and/or type of ink or ink properties desired"; **col. 4, lines 30 – 37.**

CHAN teaches "that color can vary for an ink depending upon the substrate being printed"; **col. 7, lines 53 – 54.** CHAN further teaches that the "substrate color" may also be input as "spectral data"; **col. 7, lines 65 – 66.** CHAN's system includes a spectrophotometer which may be used to obtain the spectral data of the recording substrate.

CHAN teaches the "combination" of the digital standard color data (i.e., the database) with characteristics of the recording substrate which corresponds to the "calculation of the formulation" that "preferably takes into account the color shift, if any, expected for the substrate being printed"; **col. 7, lines 60 - 62]**

Regarding claim 26, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 25, wherein

said color reproducing processes include at least one selected from the group consisting of printing processes, electro-photographical color copying processes and screens

[CHAN teaches a color matching system which can be applied to "offset lithography" and other processes, such as "gravure, flexography, and silk screen printing"; **col. 8, lines 25 – 29**].

Regarding claim 27, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

color reproduction simulation data can be browsed by a remote terminal

[CHAN teaches "the color of the selected formulation can be displayed on the customer monitor for approval by the customer. In this context, the 'customer' can be the printer and/or the print buyer and/or a designer of packaging or other printed media"; **col. 6, lines 42 - 45**].

Regarding claim 28, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

color recording characteristics data for recording substrates,

color reproduction characteristics data for color materials,

or color appearance characteristics data for color reproducing processes

can be transmitted to a data carrier or device to be stored, in order to be accessible or combinable by remote terminals, to achieve particular color reproduction simulation data

[CHAN teaches that the "second computer" may also consider "color recording characteristics" for the type of "recording substrate", "color reproduction characteristics" for the type of "color material", and the "color appearance characteristics" for the "color reproducing process". That is, the color data that is stored on the "second computer" and is transmitted to the "first computer" is data which takes into account these various characteristics.

In addition to specifying a desired input color, CHAN teaches, "It is especially preferred to include additional information relating to the print substrate, printing equipment, and other information that may affect the color match on the substrate or performance of the ink. Examples of such information include, without limitation, type of substrate, color of substrate, print process (e.g., offset, gravure, sheetfed, flexographic, etc.), type of printing equipment, press speed, and/or type of ink or ink properties desired"; **col. 4, lines 30 – 37.**

Therefore, CHAN teaches **color recording characteristics data for recording substrates** (i.e., "type of substrate" or "color of substrate"),

color reproduction characteristics data for color materials (i.e., "type of ink or ink properties desired"),

or color appearance characteristics data for various color reproducing processes (i.e., type of "print process", "printing equipment")

can be transmitted to a data carrier (i.e., the "second computer" 10 or server shown in Fig. 1) **or device to be stored,**

in order to be accessible or combinable by remote terminals, to achieve particular color reproduction simulation data (as noted for claim 25, CHAN teaches the "combination" of the digital standard color data (i.e., from the database) with characteristics of the recording substrate which corresponds to the "calculation of the formulation" that "preferably takes into account the color shift, if any, expected for the substrate being printed"; **col. 7, lines 60 - 62**].

As for claim 29, CHAN teaches a *data carrier* system, comprising:

a computer readable medium configured for the storage of color data thereon, and on which computer readable medium is stored color data [CHAN teaches that a "second computer" or server 10 uses "three software packages" [**col. 3, lines 40 - 41**] and that "software package C 22 includes a

database of color information for the ink base color set that will be used to manufacture the ink"; **col. 3, lines 56 – 58**. The "database" corresponds to the "computer-readable medium".

In use, a "remote location includes a spectrophotometer 2, a first computer (central processing unit) 4, a color monitor 6 electronically connected to the computer, and a viewing booth 8. The spectral data of a color sample of the desired color is obtained using the spectrophotometer 2. The color data for the desired color is input into the computer 4, which transmits the data to a second computer 10"; **col. 2, lines 52 – 59**. "The second computer 10 (illustrated as the server) selects an ink formulation and transmits the color data associated with the selected formulation to the first computer 4"; **col. 3, lines 31 – 33**],

CHAN further teaches that the "second computer" may also consider "color recording characteristics" for the type of "recording substrate", "color reproduction characteristics" for the type of "color material", and the "color appearance characteristics" for the "color reproducing process". That is, the color data that is stored on the "second computer" and is transmitted to the "first computer" is data which takes into account these various characteristics.

CHAN cites, "It is especially preferred to include additional information relating to the print substrate, printing equipment, and other information that may affect the

color match on the substrate or performance of the ink. Examples of such information include, without limitation, type of substrate, color of substrate, print process (e.g., offset, gravure, sheetfed, flexographic, etc.), type of printing equipment, press speed, and/or type of ink or ink properties desired"; **col. 4, lines 30 – 37.**

Therefore, the following limitations are anticipated by CHAN:

the color data being one selected from the group consisting of color recording characteristics data for recording substrates

[i.e., "type of substrate, color of substrate"],

color reproduction characteristics data for color materials

[i.e., "type of ink or ink properties desired"],

color appearance characteristics data for color reproducing processes, and combinations thereof

[i.e., type of "print process", "printing equipment"],

wherein the color data is generated by:

a) providing a color gamut including a saturation coordinate,

b) dividing the color gamut into a plurality of discrete spectral color values

[*These limitations correspond* to a database of discrete spectral color values.

CHAN teaches that a "spectrophotometer 14, color monitor 16, and viewing booth 18 are used ... to create a color data base associated with a set of ink base colors"; **col. 3, lines 43 – 46**, and cites, "The database is prepared by measuring the color information for print samples prepared from the ink color base set and/or combinations thereof at difference concentrations or strengths. The database contains a sufficient number of color information points so that the computer can extrapolate, if necessary, the color information that would result from the different combinations of the ink base color set"; **col. 5, lines 38 – 45**.

In addition, CHAN teaches that "a variety of methods for inputting the desired color is envisioned. In one embodiment, the desired color may be input as appropriate coordinates of a color space. The color coordinates can be obtained spectrophotometrically ... and expressed in coordinates such as the color coordinates such as X, Y, Z or L^* , a^* , b^* , or in cylindrical coordinates r , θ , l or $\underline{L^*}$, $\underline{C^*}$, $\underline{H^*}$ "; **col. 4, lines 46 – 53**.

The CIE $L^*C^*H^*$ system includes a saturation coordinate (C^*)],

wherein at least one of the discrete spectral color values includes a plurality of different colors at least including a first color with a first saturation,

wherein at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the first color with a second saturation different than the first saturation,

and wherein over at least a part of the color gamut, the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut,

and c) digitizing the discrete spectral color values

[Computer databases store information as digitized, discrete values. As noted previously, CHAN teaches the use of a spectrophotometer to measure "print samples prepared from the ink color base set" which are then stored in a database],

wherein at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values is representable by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals.

However, CHAN *does not specifically teach*

wherein at least one of the discrete spectral color values includes a plurality of different colors at least including a first color with a first saturation,

wherein at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the first color with a second saturation different than the first saturation,

and wherein over at least a part of the color gamut, the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut,

wherein at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values is representable by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals.

SENN et al. teach a "system and method for the production of a color palette"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 3, lines 3 – 4 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 1, paragraph 1, lines 1 - 3.** An initial step in the production of a color palette divides a color space. "The CIE-LAB-color space is initially divided into a grid of color points (Lab coordinates)"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 3, lines 41 – 42 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 3, paragraph 10, lines 16 - 20.** In this way, "a table of color coordinates with their corresponding

spectral curves is generated, thus becoming a color palette"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 5, lines 39 – 41 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 5, paragraph 17, lines 18 - 20.** SENN et al. further teach that the division of the color space may also be performed via *polar coordinates*. "To improve the visual equidistance, regular grids (polar coordinates L, C, h) can also be applied (L = brightness, lightness; C = saturation, chroma; and h = color tone, hue)"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 3, lines 52 – 54 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 3, paragraph 11, lines 5 - 8.** "The formulation, instead of being based on squares or quadrilaterals, is conducted on the basis of circles of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma). In the simplest scenario, the radii are selected as a multiple of a base radius ($r, 2r, 3r, \dots$)"; **US Patent 7,280,118 B2, col. 5, lines 45 – 49 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 5, paragraph 18, lines 4 - 7.**

That is, SENN et al. teach *dividing the color gamut into a plurality of discrete spectral color values*

wherein at least one of the discrete spectral color values includes a plurality of different colors at least including a first color with a first saturation

[For example, the "*at least one of the discrete spectral color values*" may correspond to a plurality of different colors with a chroma radius of " $2r$ " including a "*first color*" (or "*first hue*")],

wherein at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the first color with a second saturation different than the first saturation

[For example, the “*at least another of the discrete spectral color values*” may correspond to the same plurality of different colors (or hues) with a chroma radius of “ $3r$ ”],

and wherein over at least a part of the color gamut, the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut

[As noted, an objective of selecting grid points is to “improve the visual equidistance” and the discrete color values may be separated by a “multiple of a base radius”];

wherein at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values is representable by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals.

[As noted, the objective is to generate “a table of color coordinates with their corresponding spectral curves” which becomes a color palette].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of SENN et al. with those of CHAN so that the

colors selected for the color database (i.e., from a "color palette") would have a property of being visually perceived as being spatially equidistant. On the contrary, if the selected colors did not have this property, the size of the color database would be unnecessarily larger than needed due to having "duplicate colors" which appeared the same.

Regarding claim 30, CHAN further teaches the data carrier system according to claim 29, wherein

the computer readable medium is *one selected from the group consisting of a CD-ROM, a DVD-carrier, and a computer server*

[As noted for claim 29, CHAN teaches a "second computer" or server 10 which accesses a "database of color information"].

Regarding claim 31, CHAN *does not specifically teach* the data carrier system according to claim 29, wherein

the color data is further generated by:

d) representing the at least one of the digitized discrete spectral color values by means of a reflectance curve specified in regular intervals.

As noted for claim 29, SENN et al. teach the generation of "a table of color coordinates with their corresponding spectral curves" which becomes a color palette.

Regarding claim 32, CHAN further teaches the data carrier system according to claim 29, wherein

the digitized discrete spectral color values are processable *by a computer configured to read out the color data from the computer readable medium to generate or reproduce standardized colors*

[CHAN teaches that the "second computer" or server 10 "selects an ink formulation and transmits the color data associated with the selected formulation to the first computer 4, where the color of the selected ink formulation can be viewed on color monitor 6"; col. 3, lines 31 – 35].

Regarding claim 34, CHAN further teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising

processing the digitized discrete spectral color values

["Processing" of the digitized color values may include the transmission of such values from the "second computer" to the "first computer", including the display of such values on a monitor.

"The second computer 10 (illustrated as the server) selects an ink formulation and transmits the color data associated with the selected formulation to the first computer 4"; col. 3, lines 31 – 33.

Furthermore, a software package “converts the spectral data of a color that is input from the computer 4 or the database software 22 to the digital information that will produce the same color on the screens of monitor 6 and 16”; **col. 3, lines 52 - 55].**

Regarding claim 35, CHAN further teaches the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

the processor is further programmed to provide the color gamut
[As noted for claim 18, the “second computer” or server may provide the “divided” and “digitized” color gamut to a “first computer” where it can be displayed on a monitor; **col. 3, lines 31 - 35].**

Regarding claim 37, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the method according to claim 1, wherein

the at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the plurality of different colors associated with the at least one of the discrete spectral color values.

However, as noted for claim 1, SENN et al. teach “circles of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma)” with varying hue (or “colors”).

Regarding claim 38, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the method according to claim 1, wherein

the at least one of the discrete spectral color values manifests a first closed loop through the color gamut including all of the colors of the color gamut, each with the first saturation.

However, as noted for claim 1, SENN et al. teach "circles (or "loops") of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma)" with varying hue (or "colors").

Regarding claim 39, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the method according to claim 38, wherein

the at least another of the discrete spectral color values manifests a second closed loop through the color gamut including all of the colors of the color gamut, each with the second saturation.

However, as noted for claim 1, SENN et al. teach "circles (or "loops") of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma)" with varying hue (or "colors").

Regarding claim 40, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the method according to claim 1, wherein

the first color falls within the ~~at least a~~ part of the color gamut in which the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut.

SENN et al. further describe a method for obtaining the "actual formulation" based on a set of real, physical "base colors", and cite, "The primary object of the color mixing program consists in the reproduction of an original color with a certain number of base colors ... This is achieved by synchronizing the spectral curves or the colorimetric values (color coordinates) of original and recipe"; **col. 5, lines 57 – 63 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 5, paragraph 19, lines 4 - 11.**

That is, the "first color" is selected so that it can be reproduced by the set of real, physical base colors.

Regarding claim 41, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

the at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the plurality of different colors associated with the at least one of the discrete spectral color values.

However, as noted for claim 1, SENN et al. teach "circles of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma)" with varying hue (or "colors").

Regarding claim 42, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

the at least one of the discrete spectral color values manifests a first closed loop through the color gamut including all of the colors of the color gamut, each with the first saturation.

However, as noted for claim 1, SENN et al. teach “circles (or “loops”) of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma)” with varying hue (or “colors”).

Regarding claim 43, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the computer system according to claim 42, wherein

the at least another of the discrete spectral color values manifests a second closed loop through the color gamut including all of the colors of the color gamut, each with the second saturation.

However, as noted for claim 1, SENN et al. teach “circles (or “loops”) of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma)” with varying hue (or “colors”).

Regarding claim 44, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the computer system according to claim 18, wherein

the first color falls within the ~~at least a~~ part of the color gamut in which the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut.

SENN et al. further describe a method for obtaining the "actual formulation" based on a set of real, physical "base colors", and cite, "The primary object of the color mixing program consists in the reproduction of an original color with a certain number of base colors ... This is achieved by synchronizing the spectral curves or the colorimetric values (color coordinates) of original and recipe"; **col. 5, lines 57 – 63 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 5, paragraph 19, lines 4 - 11.**

That is, the "first color" is selected so that it can be reproduced by the set of real, physical base colors.

Regarding claim 45, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the data carrier system according to claim 29, wherein

the at least another of the discrete spectral color values includes the plurality of different colors associated with the at least one of the discrete spectral color values.

However, as noted for claim 1, SENN et al. teach "circles of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma)" with varying hue (or "colors").

Regarding claim 46, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the data carrier system according to claim 29, wherein

the at least one of the discrete spectral color values manifests a first closed loop through the color gamut including all ~~of the~~ colors of the color gamut, each with the first saturation.

However, as noted for claim 1, SENN et al. teach “circles (or “loops”) of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma)” with varying hue (or “colors”).

Regarding claim 47, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the data carrier system according to claim 46, wherein

the at least another of the discrete spectral color values manifests a second closed loop through the color gamut including all ~~of the~~ colors of the color gamut, each with the second saturation.

However, as noted for claim 1, SENN et al. teach “circles (or “loops”) of constant color saturation (i.e., chroma)” with varying hue (or “colors”).

Regarding claim 48, *CHAN does not specifically teach* the data carrier system according to claim 29, wherein

the first color falls within the at least a part of the color gamut in which the discrete spectral color values are substantially equidistant to each other with respect to the color gamut.

SENN et al. further describe a method for obtaining the "actual formulation" based on a set of real, physical "base colors", and cite, "The primary object of the color mixing program consists in the reproduction of an original color with a certain number of base colors ... This is achieved by synchronizing the spectral curves or the colorimetric values (color coordinates) of original and recipe"; **col. 5, lines 57 – 63 / EP1 248 087 A1, col. 5, paragraph 19, lines 4 - 11.**

That is, the "first color" is selected so that it can be reproduced by the set of real, physical base colors.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- U.S. Patent 5,798,943 (Cook et al.)
- U.S. Patent 6,349,300 B1 (Graf et al.)
- U.S. Patent 6,842,654 B2 (Lawn et al.)

- U.K. Patent Application GB 2361158 A (Durnian and Dornan)
- U.S. Patent 6,563,510 B1 (Rice et al.)
- U.S. Patent 7,180,524 B1 (Axelrod)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter L. Cheng whose telephone number is 571-270-3007. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Y. Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/705,473
Art Unit: 2625

Page 51

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

plc
March 9, 2008